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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,509	03/25/2004	Koji Ishii	040155	5520
23850      7590      05/06/2008 KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP 1420 K Street, N.W. Suite 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER				
MAKIYA, DAVID J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2885				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/06/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/808,509

**Applicant(s)**

ISHII ET AL.

**Examiner**

David J. Makiya

**Art Unit**

2885

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2008.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duggal et al. (US Patent 6,515,314) in view of Krafcik et al. (US Patent 6,465,951).

With respect to claim 1, Duggal et al. teaches a plate for a panel, consisting of laminated patterns of electrodes (30, 50) and light emitting elements (40) formed on a substrate (20) on a plate (10) for a panel (100; Column 8, Lines 8-27), by laminating electrodes and organic electroluminescent material through ink jet printing (Column 9, Lines 10-60), each of the electrodes and the light emitting elements have a specific design corresponding to ink jet printing data (Column 9, Lines 10-60 and Column 10, Lines 8-14).

However, Duggal et al. fails to teach the plate for a panel being a dial plate for use in an instrument panel.

Krafcik et al. teaches a dial plate for use in an instrument panel of a vehicle, consisting of laminating electrodes (44, 50) and electroluminescent materials (46) through ink jet printing (Column 6, Lines 6-25) on a substrate (40) of the dial plate for an instrument panel (Column 1, Lines 26-33), and having a specific design corresponding to ink jet printing data (Figure 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the use of the device of Duggal et al. to include being a dial plate for use in an

instrument panel from the teachings of Krafcik et al. because “providing lamps for control panels such as the instrumentation mount (82) described above in conjunction with FIG. 7, the flexible substrate manufacturing approach is highly desirable, for being less expensive than forming rigid members” (Krafcik et al.; Column 9, Lines 30-57).

With respect to claim 3, Duggal et al. teaches a method for producing a dial plate for use in an instrument panel of a vehicle, consisting of the steps of receiving ink jet printing data (Column 10, Lines 8-14); and forming laminated patterns on a substrate (20) of a plate for a panel (100; Column 8, Lines 8-27) by laminating electrodes (30, 50) and electroluminescent materials (40) through ink jet printing (Column 9, Lines 10-60), whereby the laminated patterns have a specific design corresponding to the ink jet printing data (Column 9, Lines 10-60 and Column 10, Lines 8-14).

However, Duggal et al. fails to teach the method of the plate for a panel being for a dial plate for use in an instrument panel.

Krafcik et al. teaches a method for producing a dial plate for use in an instrument panel of a vehicle, consisting of receiving ink jet printing data (Figure 7); and forming laminated patterns on a substrate (40) of the dial plate for an instrument panel (Column 1, Lines 26-33) by laminating electrodes (44, 50) and electroluminescent materials (46) through ink jet printing (Column 6, Lines 6-25), and having a specific design corresponding to external data (Figure 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the use of the method of Duggal et al. to include being a dial plate for use in an instrument panel from the teachings of Krafcik et al. because “providing lamps for control panels

such as the instrumentation mount (82) described above in conjunction with FIG. 7, the flexible substrate manufacturing approach is highly desirable, for being less expensive than forming rigid members" (Krafcik et al.; Column 9, Lines 30-57).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. McNulty et al. (US Patent 6,903,505) and Thurk (US 2006/0034065) teach plates consisting of laminated electrodes and light emitting elements on a substrate.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Makiya whose telephone number is (571) 272-2273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/DJM/  
05/01/2008

/Y M. Lee/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2885